

**CLINICAL ALLERGY—A Practical Guide to Diagnosis and Treatment—Second Edition—**Samuel J. Taub, M.D., F.A.C.P., Professor of Medicine, and Chairman of the Department of Allergic Diseases, Chicago Medical School. Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., 49 East 33rd St., New York, 1951. 276 pages. \$4.50.

Succinct discussion of the immunochemistry of allergy, the nature of antibodies, antigens, and haptens, the mechanism of the hypersensitive reaction and the results and location of the antibody-antigen cellular reaction, are in the first four quite brief chapters of this book.

Discussion of inhalant and, to a lesser extent, food allergies follows. Methods of diagnosis and treatment are outlined. More consideration of the negative skin reaction in pollen and especially in food-sensitive patients would be helpful. The student must know, moreover, that pollen-sensitive patients may give reactions due to past or potential allergy, or to non-specific substances in the extracts, or may give no reactions to important allergenic pollens. In the latter case, the conjunctival test is advised which also may be negative. The choice of pollens for treatment needs additional discussion, depending as it does primarily on the patient's history correlated with the pollination seasons and secondarily on the skin reactions obtained.

In the section on the diagnosis and treatment of perennial nasal allergy, bronchial asthma, and atopic dermatitis, major attention is given to inhalant allergy including that to pollens, animal emanations, miscellaneous inhalants, and house dust. There is special emphasis on cottonseed as an inhalant. The open mind about allergens in cottonseed and other vegetable oils is approved by this reviewer. Such allergy is interestingly stressed in atopic dermatitis, possibly from the author's experience before the last war. Fungus inhalant allergy is considered with approved reserve.

Many allergists will be disappointed in the information about food allergy. The frequency of food allergy in patients with negative skin tests could be emphasized. Although those negative tests are noted, food allergies in summarized cases are only determined by skin testing, especially by the fallible intradermal and in one case by the passive transfer method. There is insufficient consideration of food allergy in atopic dermatitis, allergic headaches, gastrointestinal allergy, joint and urogenital allergy, and the quite common allergic toxemia. The trial diets in the appendix detail recent elimination diets of Rowe. References to them in 1944 and 1950 would be more helpful than the original reference in 1928. And throughout the book, references to important texts and previous and recent contributions profitable for the student to read and refer to would be important.

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**RELATION OF PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTS TO PSYCHIATRY.** Edited by Paul H. Hock, M.D., New York State Psychiatric Institute; College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University; and Joseph Zubin, Ph.D., New York State Psychiatric Institute, Department of Psychology, Columbia University. The Proceedings of the Fortieth Annual Meeting of the American Psychopathological Association, held in New York City, June 1950. Grune and Stratton, New York, 1952. 301 pages. \$5.50.

It would be very nice indeed if there were a readily available source of information to the physician as to what he could expect in the way of useful information when he sends his patients for psychological tests. This book is not, however, the answer to this need. Rather it is the proceedings of the 1950 meeting of the American Psychopathological Association. As such, it should be of interest to the specialist in psychiatry, but since the work reported is now two years old one would rather suspect that it was already known to the workers in this field. It is not a book that would be helpful to the uninitiate.

**MONOGRAPHS ON SURGERY—1952.** B. Noland Carter, M.D., Ph.D., Editor, Professor of Surgery, University of Cincinnati. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1952. 430 pages, \$12.50.

This is the third volume of "Monographs on Surgery" and represents the changing policy from Nelson's Loose Leaf Surgery with yearly supplements to a series of monographs on timely subjects each year. If one saves these monographs, which are published in book form, an up-to-date series of articles, each well done by an expert in the field, will be available as a reference source to the surgeon rather than the previous systems of surgery. Necessarily the scope of each book of monographs must be rather diversified, and this is true of the present volume.

There are essentially sixteen excellent articles in monograph style in this present volume. Six of the articles deal with a symposium on Urinary Incontinence in the Female, and each of them is admirably written and illustrated by an expert. The orthopedic section comprises four articles: one on internal fixation of fractures of long bones, another on intrascapular fractures of the femoral neck, a third on aseptic necrosis of the femoral head, and a fourth on arthroplasty. There are two articles on urology: (1) congenital pelvic and ureteral dilatation, and (2) renal neoplasms. The remaining articles are devoted to surgery of the large arteries, operation (for neoplasms) of the pancreas, management of acute chest injuries, and radioactive iodine in the diagnosis and treatment of thyroid disease.

With surgery divided into the specialties, and with the content of the monographs being of a character to appeal to a specialist rather than to a general practitioner, it is unlikely that any one surgeon will be interested in all the articles contained in the present volume. Depending upon one's surgical inclinations, therefore, the articles will prove excellent or useless. One wonders if it might not be advisable from the standpoint of the practicing surgeon to have each yearly monograph be a symposium in a given specialty, following the lines more or less adhered to in everyday practice of surgery. For a total of sixteen articles two specialties might be included, such as orthopedics and neurosurgery, or chest and vascular surgery. With the present contents the publishers theoretically hope to sell more books to a wider variety of surgeons, but one must wonder if it does not result in fewer surgeons buying the volume, and accordingly, permitting a series of excellent articles to pass unstudied and unread by the specialists who are seeking such material in their respective fields.

If the scope of the table of contents appeals to your interests in surgery the present "Monographs in Surgery" is worth securing for your library. The book is excellently printed and illustrated and the articles are excellent.

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**CLINICAL PRACTICE IN INFECTIOUS DISEASES—For Students, Practitioners and Medical Officers.** E. H. R. Harries, M.D., Lond., F.R.C.P., Formerly Medical Superintendent Infectious-Diseases Hospitals Service, London County Council; and M. Mitman, M.D., Lond., F.R.C.P., Consultant Physician and Medical Superintendent, River Hospitals, Joyce Green, Dartford. Fourth Edition. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1951. 717 pages. \$6.50.

Harries and his associates have prepared an excellent textbook containing sound descriptions of the communicable infectious diseases. They are probably not better than those to be found in any standard American textbook of medicine or pediatrics. Management of the various disorders is considered within the setting of British use of antimicrobial agents and public health regulations. For this reason the book will be of very little value to students and physicians in this country.